

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
JORDAN/MALHEUR FIELD OFFICE
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Northwest Pipeline Cathodic Protection System Right-of-Way OR-66823 and Amendment to
Idaho Power Right-of-Way OR-56382
Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-OR-V040-2011-062

BACKGROUND

The FONSI is a document that explains the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and why, therefore, an EIS will not be required (40 CFR 1508.13). This FONSI is a stand-alone document but is attached to the Environmental Assessment (EA) and incorporates the EA by reference. The FONSI does not constitute the authorizing document: the decision record is the authorizing document.

“Significance” as used in NEPA requires considerations of both context and intensity (40 CFR 1508.27).

The proposed action is to grant a one acre right-of-way to Northwest Pipeline (NWP) for the construction of a cathodic protection system (CPS) and to amend Idaho Power right-of-way OR-56382 by 145 feet to provide the charge required for the cathodic protection system to work properly. The purpose of this action is to facilitate the installation of a cathodic protection system on an existing natural gas pipeline.

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and its implementing regulations, BLM must respond to right-of-way applications. The BLM is also required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. It was determined that an EA was necessary to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with this proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Any land management action involving ground disturbance invariably, and by definition, entails environmental effects. I have determined, based upon the analysis of environmental impacts contained in the referenced EA (DOI-BLM-OR-V040-2011-062), that the potential impacts resulting from the proposed action would not be significant and that, therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

I find that the project’s affected region is localized and the effects of implementation are relevant to compliance with Federal and Oregon State law. There would be no adverse societal or regional impacts and no significant adverse impacts to the environment. I have evaluated the environmental effects, together with the proposed mitigating measures, against the tests of significance found at 40 CFR § 1508.27. Although not a condition of my determination, implementation of all Best Management Practices (BMP) of the proposed project would be critical to the success of the action.

Context

For context, significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, for a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the

world as a whole. For this proposed action, the effects are confined to the immediate area described and analyzed in the EA.

Intensity

Intensity refers to the severity of effect. Northwest Pipeline (NWP) and Idaho Power will conduct the actions described using the BMPs referenced in the EA and limiting effects to the immediate vicinity of the proposed project.

I have determined the following:

1. The proposed action would cause no significant impacts, either beneficial or adverse; all impacts would be insignificant; and the proposed activity will not have an adverse effect on water quality.
2. The proposed action would have no adverse effect on public health or safety.
3. The proposed action would not affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or ecologically critical areas.
4. The proposed action would have no highly controversial effects.
5. The proposed action would have no uncertain effects and would not involve unique or unknown risks.
6. The proposed action is not related to any immediate action being considered by BLM.
7. The proposed action would have no adverse effect to any property listed on or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
8. The proposed action would not significantly adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or any habitat critical to an endangered or threatened species because BMPs would be utilized.
9. The proposed action does not violate any law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
10. The proposed action would not significantly affect air quality.
11. The proposed action would not significantly adversely affect permitted livestock grazing.
12. The proposed action would not adversely affect wild horses or wildlife because adequate sources of forage and water will remain available.

The proposed action is consistent with the Northern Malheur Management Framework Plan (1979), the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (2001) and Oregon State law.

Field Manager
Jordan/Malheur Resource Areas

Date